

North Liberty Leader North Liberty,IA Circ. 675 From Page: 5 9/7/2005 42440



//%- //2_ Great Places abound in Iowa

This spring, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs solicited applications for a new program called Iowa Great Places. The initiative is designed to make good places great by cultivating the unique and authentic qualities that make Iowa's communities, regions,

neighborhoods and districts special.

I know that a great quality of life is essential to our economic development, and folks across the state seem to agree. More than 145 Great Places applications poured in from 91 Iowa counties.

Currently, coaches are meeting with each applicant to create a Great Places Profile and develop an offer. I'm really excited at the prospect of the Creative Corridor of Coralville, Iowa City and Cedar Rapids being named one of Iowa's Great Places. Three places will be selected for a pilot project by October 1.